Fishery Management Report No. 05-24

Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Fishery: 2005 Management Plan

by

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game **Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries**

Symbols and Abbreviations

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Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Measures (fisheries)

fork length	FL
mideye-to-fork	MEF
mideye-to-tail-fork	METF
standard length	SL
total length	TL

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
alternate hypothesis	H_A
base of natural logarithm	*e*
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2, etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	*E*
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	$\log_2$, etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H_O
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY: 2005 MANAGEMENT PLAN

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The Division of Sport Fish Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 for the publication of an overview of Division of Sport Fish management activities and goals in a specific geographic area. Since 2004, the Division of Commercial Fisheries has also used the Fishery Management Report series. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/divreports/html/intersearch.cfm. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

LIST OF TABLES

ABSTRACT

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2005. Drift gillnet fisheries occur at Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1), Prince of Wales and Stikine River (Districts 6 & 8), Taku River/Snettisham (District 11), Lynn Canal (District 15) and in hatchery terminal areas including: Neets Bay (District 1), Nakat Inlet (District 1), Earl West Cove (District 7), Anita Bay (District 7), Speel Arm (District 11), Deep Inlet (District 13) and Boat Harbor (District 15).

Key words: Southeast Alaska, drift gillnet, management plan, salmon, outlooks, terminal harvest area.

INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2005.

For the period 1994–2003, an average of 482 Southeast Alaska drift gillnet limited entry permits issued annually of which typically 90% are actively fished each year. In 2004, 478 permits were issued, of which 351 were actively fished, the lowest on record (74%). Drift gillnet landings have averaged approximately 4.109 million salmon annually from 1994 to 2003. Of the total commercial salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska, the drift gillnet fishery harvests an average of 38% of the sockeye, 19% of the chum, 12% of the coho, 3% of the pink, and 4% of the Chinook salmon (1960 to 2004 data).

The drift gillnet fishery primarily targets Chinook salmon during the spring season; sockeye, pink, and summer chum salmon during the summer season; and coho and fall chum salmon during the fall season. These will be the first commercial fisheries directed at harvesting Stikine and Taku River Chinook salmon since the 1970s. Some Chinook salmon fisheries also occur in terminal hatchery areas in the spring.

There are five traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska: District 1 (Tree Point and Portland Canal), District 6 (Prince of Wales), District 8 (Stikine), District 11 (Taku-Snettisham), and District 15 (Lynn Canal). In addition, drift gillnet fisheries occur in several terminal areas adjacent to hatchery facilities and at remote release sites throughout the region. Each of these gillnet fisheries are discussed separately in this management plan.

SALMON RETURNS

In Southeast Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issues a region wide preseason harvest forecast for pink salmon. ADF&G also derives preseason forecasts for several specific stocks including Taku and Stikine River Chinook salmon, Stikine River sockeye salmon, and other Chinook salmon stocks. Private non-profit hatchery operators also derive preseason forecasts for salmon returning to many enhancement projects throughout Southeast Alaska. Otherwise, the projected returns of sockeye, chum, and coho salmon presented in this management plan are qualitative and should not be considered official department forecasts. These return projections are calculated primarily from parent-year catch and escapement data and are expressed in terms of probable magnitude of return relative to historic levels.

Significant in 2005 are forecast returns of Chinook salmon to the Stikine and Taku Rivers. The United States and Canada successfully negotiated abundance based fishery regimes for those two stocks during February 2005. A major component of the negotiations was specific harvest shares for both countries that are referred to as Allowable Catch (AC). Preliminary ACs are calculated

using preseason forecasts of terminal run for each stock. The pre-season terminal run forecast for the Stikine River of 80,300 large adults which provides for an Alaskan harvest of 27,300 fish in District 8 by all gear groups including directed harvest by drift gillnet fisheries in District 8. The pre-season terminal run forecast return to the Taku River of 99,600 large adults which would provide for an Alaskan harvest of 22,800 fish by all gear groups including directed harvest by drift gillnet fisheries in District 11. The ACs for each river will be adjusted as inseason information on run strength becomes available. The harvests of Stikine and Taku River Chinook salmon in Districts 8 and 11 respectively above base harvest levels will not count against the 7,600 drift gillnet harvest allowed under Chinook salmon allocation plan adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). Most Alaska hatchery produced Chinook salmon harvested in drift gillnet fisheries do not count against the 7,600 harvest ceiling mandated by the BOF allocation plan either.

Returns of wild summer chum salmon stocks are anticipated to be average in most areas. Returns of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon are expected to contribute significantly to the District 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15 gillnet fisheries. It is anticipated that the total Southeast Alaska hatchery chum salmon return will be above that in 2004.

Overall, returns of coho salmon should be near the 20-year average, due, in part to significant hatchery contributions. The Alaska hatchery coho salmon contributions to drift gillnet fisheries was 23% in 2002, 30% in 2003, and 20% in 2004.

The pink salmon return in 2005 is predicted to be *Strong* to *Excellent*, with a potential total Southeast Alaska harvest of 49 million fish, with a range of 25 to 72 million fish. The major portion of the pink salmon harvest will be taken by purse seine gear.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

A flexible management approach is required because of the lack of accurate preseason forecasts for salmon returns to the drift gillnet fishing areas. Thus, this management plan presents only a general outlook of how the season is expected to develop. Some specific management approaches may be altered depending on inseason assessments of salmon run strength. Gillnetters are encouraged to contact department management staff listed at the end of this plan for more detailed information.

The primary objectives for management of the 2005 drift gillnet fishery are:

1. Obtain overall salmon spawning escapements with the best possible distribution to all systems;
2. Provide for orderly fisheries while harvesting those salmon in excess of escapement needs;
3. Promote the harvest and processing of good quality salmon within the constraints dictated by run size;
4. Manage for a total Southeast drift gillnet harvest of 7,600 Chinook salmon, exclusive of Alaska hatchery-produced fish [5 AAC 29.060(b)(2)];
5. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interception of salmon destined for locations where weak returns are expected;
6. Manage District 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty;
7. Manage hatchery Terminal Harvests Areas in accordance with provisions in existing terminal harvest area management plans adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries;
8. Manage Districts 8 and 11 directed Chinook fisheries for all-gear harvests as provided under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and emergency regulations.

Achievement of these management objectives will be accomplished by inseason adjustments of fishing time and area to control harvests in specific areas in accordance with salmon run strength and timing. Comparisons of current-year fishing performance to historical fishing success (i.e., catch per unit effort, or CPUE analysis) are a major component of inseason run strength assessment. This approach assumes catch rates are an accurate reflection of run strength by time period and can be relied upon to indicate salmon escapements through the fishing area.

Past experience has demonstrated that management of salmon fisheries based only on fishery performance (CPUE) data can be misleading, especially for mixed-stock fisheries. Therefore, other available run-strength indicators will also be used including spawning escapements, stock composition estimates, test fishing, observed salmon concentrations in sanctuary areas, catches from other fisheries, and salmon run timing models.

The increasing availability of hatchery-produced salmon, in particular coho and summer chum salmon regionwide and sockeye salmon in District 11, has become a major factor in the management of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries. Where inseason management is based on fishery performance, it may be difficult to gauge natural stock run strength if significant numbers of hatchery fish are present in the catch. Where possible, the hatchery component of the catch will be separated when evaluating fishery performance.

WEEKLY FISHING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inseason management of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery is conducted by the Ketchikan area management staff; Districts 6 and 8 by the Petersburg and Wrangell area staff; District 11 by the Juneau area staff; and District 15 by the Haines area staff. Because permit holders can move freely among all drift gillnet fisheries, the Southeast regional office will coordinate weekly fishing announcements for all areas. These will normally be released simultaneously in all area offices by mid-afternoon each Thursday during the fishing season.

WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS

Weekly fishing periods in traditional areas can generally be expected to begin on Sundays at 12:01 p.m., except the directed Chinook salmon drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 which will open on Mondays except for State or Federal holidays when the fisheries will open on Tuesday. The District 8 directed Chinook salmon fishery will open at 8:00 a.m.. Fishing periods in hatchery terminal harvest areas, including the Northern and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's (NSRAA & SSRAA) terminal fisheries in Deep Inlet, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, and Earl West Cove, will be in accordance with rotational harvest management plans for drift gillnet, seine, and troll fisheries adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF).

FULL RETENTION

ADF&G will require full retention (5 AAC 39.265) of all salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area net fisheries from the beginning of the 2005 season. This regulation may be implemented by emergency order in other areas of Southeast Alaska if necessary after consultation with the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement. Further details regarding the implementation of this regulation will be announced at later dates.

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

The U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) will influence management of the Districts 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries [5 AAC 33.361]. The management provisions specified by the PST will be considered separately under the specific management plan for each respective fishery. Fishermen are encouraged to contact local department staff for more detailed information concerning Alaska's PST obligations under the ten-year agreement signed in 1999 and the Chinook salmon annex signed in 2005.

CHINOOK SALMON

The need for management measures to comply with the drift gillnet harvest quota for Chinook salmon will depend on inseason evaluation of Chinook salmon catch rates relative to the 7,600 Treaty fish ceiling [5 AAC 29.060 (b)(2)]. If the need arises, nighttime fishing closures may be implemented in certain areas to reduce the incidental catch of immature, "feeder" Chinook salmon. Management measures to limit the drift gillnet harvest of Treaty Chinook salmon have not been necessary since this regulation went into effect in 1998. The recent 10-year average harvest of Treaty Chinook salmon in the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery is approximately 5,300 fish.

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with provisions in the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River Chinook Salmon Fishery Management Plan [5 AAC 33.384].

Drift gillnet fisheries will target Chinook salmon in both District 8 and District 11. Only historic base level catches will be counted towards the Treaty fish ceiling [5 AAC 29.060 (b)(2)].

CHINOOK SALMON ENCOUNTER/GENETIC STUDY

The 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement calls for a move to total abundance-based management of Chinook salmon based upon knowledge of total mortality. Total fishing mortality is defined as the sum of total landed catch and total incidental mortality (including catch and release mortality). Although the net fisheries harvest only a small portion of the overall Chinook quota it is necessary to estimate total Chinook salmon catch and release encounters by net gear in order to estimate total Chinook salmon mortality for the Chinook management model. Mortality resulting from catch and release encounters will be estimated by applying mortality rates to the catch and release estimates previously determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission Joint Chinook Technical Committee. The current Chinook model estimates purse seine catch and release mortality indirectly based upon data from the 1980s. Drift gillnet catch and release mortality had not been studied in the Southeast Alaska fisheries, and although the incidence of catch and release is assumed to be minimal, it is necessary to directly measure it. A study was initiated in 2004 using logbooks and observers to document Chinook catch and mortality estimates for the abundance based management strategy. The 2005 drift gillnet season is anticipated to be the second and final year for collection of catch and release encounter data through this study. An ongoing similar study in the troll fishery has allowed the Chinook Technical Committee to calibrate the Chinook model more accurately with current directly measured catch and release data.

The other major goal of the study is to collect tissue samples from representative Chinook salmon caught in the net fisheries for analysis. This portion of the study will provide stock composition data for Chinook salmon encountered in these fisheries that has never before been available. Current coded-wire tag (CWT) recovery data available from these fisheries does not

adequately represent the portion of the catch made up by wild stocks. Also, the data currently available does not represent fish that are not landed and sold. This study will sample Chinook salmon that are caught and released for genetic stock composition data, as well as the fish that are landed and sold. In addition, genetic samples obtained in this study will provide a more complete picture of the stock composition of Chinook salmon in these fisheries, by representing wild stocks. An ongoing study in the troll fishery and a concurrent study to be implemented in the sport fishery will provide a total picture of Chinook salmon catch and release as well as Chinook salmon stock composition for all major fisheries in the Southeast Alaska region.

Onboard ADF&G fisheries observers employed in this study will also collect data on marine mammal and bird interactions with the fishing vessels and gear, as well as other species of fish and shellfish caught by net gear. This data will be helpful in certifying our net fisheries as having a minimal impact on non-target species. Observers will be deployed on volunteer drift gillnet vessels in the District 111 (Taku Inlet) fishery. Vessel operators will be compensated $100 per day that the observer is aboard as well as an allowance for food expenses.

Additional details regarding this study will be announced via Commercial Fisheries Division news releases. A detailed project operational plan is available at local Fish and Game offices and questions related to this study can be directed to Richard Bloomquist in the Douglas Fish and Game office.

TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Tree Point and Portland Canal drift gillnet fishing area consists of regulatory Sections 1-A and 1-B. This fishery targets summer chum and sockeye salmon early in the season, followed by pink salmon, and finally fall chum and coho salmon at the end of the season.

2005 OUTLOOK

Chum Salmon

Chum salmon returns to natural spawning systems have increased in recent years after a series of poor returns to Portland Canal. Chum salmon escapements to systems in Boca de Quadra and Behm Canal were at satisfactory levels during parent years. However, there was a lack of three-year-old chums escaping into Fish Creek in 2004. This may indicate a smaller return of four-year-old chum salmon to Fish Creek, and perhaps other Portland Canal systems in 2005. ADF&G will pay close attention to Portland Canal chum salmon in 2005 and will take necessary management action early in the season to ensure adequate escapements of these stocks. ADF&G will conduct aerial surveys starting in mid-June to determine the strength of returning chum salmon to these areas.

U. S./Canada Tree Point Fishery Agreement

In the spring of 1999, the United States and Canada negotiated a ten-year annex for the Tree Point fishery. The new agreement calls for the following:

Manage the Alaskan District 1 drift gillnet fishery to:

1. Achieve an annual catch share of Nass sockeye salmon of 13.8 percent of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass sockeye salmon stocks that year;
2. Carry forward from year to year annual deviations from the prescribed catch share arrangement.

Nass Sockeye Salmon Annual Allowable Harvest

The AAH each year will be calculated as the total run of adult Nass sockeye salmon in that year less the escapement target of 200,000 fish. In the event that the actual Nass spawning escapement for the season is below the target level, the actual spawning escapement will be used in the AAH calculations.

The total run calculation includes the catches of Nass sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapement to the Nass watershed. This includes the catch of Nass sockeye salmon in Alaskan Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 net fisheries, Canadian Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries and Canadian Nass inriver fisheries. Catches in other boundary area fisheries may be included as jointly agreed by the Northern Boundary Technical Committee.

Although the management intent shall be to harvest salmon at the allowable percentage AAH, it is recognized that overages and underages will occur and an accounting mechanism is required. The payback mechanism for the fishery will be based on the number of fish a party is over or under its AAH.

The management intent for the fishery shall be to return any overages to a neutral or negative balance as soon as possible. After five years of consecutive overages, a management plan must be provided to the Northern Panel with specific management actions that will eliminate the overage. The accrual of underages is not intended to allow either Alaska or Canada to modify its fishing behavior in any given year, nor to harvest the accrued underage.

Over the past three years, the Bilateral Northern Boundary Technical Committee has worked to finalize the total run reconstruction for the Nass and Skeena Rivers. During the Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in February 2005, the bi-lateral Northern Panel and the Northern Boundary Technical Committee finalized and agreed upon the run reconstruction of the Nass River for 2003. The following table (Table 1) reflects the performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery under the 1999 agreement:

Table 1.–Performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery under the 1999 agreement.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (preliminary)
Nass Total Return	842,806	625,983	580,616	1,403,976	1,156,259	916,000
Nass Escapement	200,000	200,000	167,258	200,000	200,000	200,000
Allowable Nass AAH	642,806	425,983	413,358	1,203,976	956,259	716,000
Allowable Alaska Harvest (13.8%)	88,707	58,786	57,043	166,149	131,964	98,800
Actual Nass Alaska Harvest	129,794	46,305	55,096	90,553	72,942	120,000
Cumulative:+overage/ (-underage)	+41,087	+28,606	+26,659	-48,937	-107,959	-86,759

Very preliminary reports indict that the total sockeye salmon return to the Nass River in 2004 was 916,000 fish. That allowed a harvest of approximately 98,800 Nass River sockeye salmon at Tree Point in 2004. The total harvest of sockeye salmon at Tree Point in 2004 was 142,350 fish. If 85%, or 120,000 of those sockeye were Nass River fish then an overage of 21,000 sockeye

salmon would be added to the underage accrued from 1999 through 2002 for a total underage of approximately 86,759 through the first six years of the ten-year annex.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a preseason expectation of approximately 860,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. If the 2005 forecast is accurate, then the AAH for Tree Point will be approximately 91,000 Nass River sockeye salmon.

Chum and Coho Enhancement

Hatchery returns of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon to SSRAAs enhancement projects are expected to contribute significantly to the Tree Point gillnet fishery in 2005.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon returns are expected to be strong to southern Southeast Alaska in 2005. If the actual returns are as strong as forecast, Tree Point drift gillnet fishery should have four- and five-day fishing weeks beginning at the start of the District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan (PSMP, 5 AAC 33.360).

The PSMP establishes drift gillnet fishing time in Section 1-B in relation to District 1 purse seine fishing time when both gear types are concurrently harvesting the same pink salmon stocks. By regulation, the plan starts on the third Sunday in July (July 17, 2005) with the following fishing time schedule:

1. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of one day during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 48 hours during the same fishing week;
2. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of two days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 96 hours during the same fishing week;
3. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of three or more days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 120 hours during the same week.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2005 Tree Point drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Manage the fishery in accordance within the Pink Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.360);
2. Manage the fishery consistent with the current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361);
3. Manage the fishery consistent with the Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Plan and optimal escapement goal (5 AAC 33.390).

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Tree Point gillnet fishery will open by regulation in Section 1-B for four days beginning at 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 19, 2005. The length of subsequent fishing periods up to the start of the Pink Salmon Management Plan on July 17 will be based on the strength of wild stock sockeye and chum salmon returns to Alaskan and Canadian waters. The effort levels at Tree Point will also influence the amount of time the fishery is given up to the start of the District 1 PSMP.

As in recent years, the catch of hatchery-produced, summer chum salmon returning to the Nakat Inlet release site will not be included in the evaluation of natural stock fishery performance. The contribution of Nakat Inlet chum salmon will be estimated by inseason analysis of coded wire

tag data. Hatchery chum salmon have contributed as much as 71% of weekly harvest at Tree Point and as much as 31% of the total harvest in recent years.

The PST requires that interception of natural stocks of chum salmon returning to Portland Canal streams be minimized to ensure rebuilding of these stocks. As a result, no fishing should be expected in Section 1-A for Portland Canal chum salmon unless it is determined that a harvestable surplus exists. Any management decision to fish Portland Canal must assume there is sufficient additional surplus fish to support a Canadian as well as an Alaskan fishery.

The Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery will be managed according to the District 1 PSMP starting July 17, 2005. The overall pink salmon return to southern Southeast Alaska is expected to be strong in 2005. If the returns come in as predicted then beginning in mid-July through the end of August, Tree Point drift gillnetters can anticipate four- and five-day fishing periods.

In 2005, management of the Southeast purse seine fishery is anticipated to be similar to the past two years with a four day on/one day off fishing schedule beginning in late July or early August. This should allow for five-day fish weeks beginning in late July or early August.

Fall management at Tree Point starts after the end of the pink salmon season. During the fall season, the Tree Point fishery targets primarily fall chum and coho salmon. Little is known about the stock composition of the chum and coho salmon harvest at this time of the year. However, if the estimated exploitation rate of the Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon stock, which reaches 80% in some years, holds true for adjacent areas then wild coho salmon stocks in the surrounding Tree Point area may benefit from a closing date at Tree Point of approximately September 20. Due to the uncertainties of the escapement levels of the stocks being harvested, the documented high exploitation rate of Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon, and the high preponderance of hatchery fish in the harvest, ADF&G will continue to take a conservative approach to the fall season at Tree Point. However, fishing periods will be allowed after September 20 if fisheries performance data indicates above average returns of wild chum and coho salmon. During recent years, approximately 50% of the fall chum and coho salmon have been hatchery fish. Nakat Inlet fish not harvested in the common property fisheries can be harvested in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, which remains open to commercial fishing through late October.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

The BOF, after reviewing stock status information and public input during the February 2003 regulatory meeting, classified Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern. This determination was based on the inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the BEG during the last five years.

ADF&G completed an analysis of available stock assessment data for Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon in the process of re-examining the escapement goal for the system. Based on that analysis ADF&G recommended a biological escapement goal for the Hugh Smith Lake stock of sockeye salmon of 8,000 to 18,000 spawners was recommended. The BOF adopted this range in regulation as an optimal escapement goal range in February 2003.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Plan

The BOF also adopted an Action Plan whose goal is to rebuild the Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon run back to levels that attain the current escapement goal range. The rebuilding plan will

include measures to reduce harvests, rehabilitation efforts' including egg takes and back-plants, and improved stock assessment.

If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir counts in Statistical Week 29 and 30 falls below the cumulative number of sockeye salmon needed to meet the lower end of the escapement range ADF&G shall:

1. Close that portion of the District 1 purse seine fishery east of a line from Quadra Point to Slate Island Light to Black Rock Light to a point on the mainland shore at 55°01.40' N. latitude, 131°00.20' W. longitude.
2. If the projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye weir counts in statistical weeks 31, 32, and 33 fall below the cumulative number of sockeye salmon needed to meet the lower end of the escapement range ADF&G shall: Close that portion of the District 1 purse seine fishery east of a line from Foggy Point Light to Black Rock Light to the southernmost tip of Black Island and;
3. Close the upper portion of the Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery one nautical mile south of the latitude of Foggy Point Light.

The base years for determining the mean weekly run timing will start in 1982 and continue through the most current year of weir counts.

When the projections of Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon counts are above the cumulative number of sockeye salmon needed to meet the lower end of the escapement range, ADF&G shall manage the purse seine and drift gillnet fishery on the basis of the overall strength of wild stock salmon to District 1.

In 2004, the returns of sockeye salmon to Hugh Smith Lake were above the projected goal for the entire portion of the Plan, therefore no closures were implemented in 2004. The final sockeye escapement was approximately 20,000 and exceeded the escapement goal range for the 2nd consecutive year.

PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The District 6 drift gillnet fishery occurs in the waters of northern Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait, in regulatory Sections 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C, and portions of Section 6-D. The Stikine fishery encompasses the waters of District 8 surrounding the terminus of the Stikine River. Due to their close proximity, management of these fisheries is interrelated, resulting in some major stocks being subject to harvest by both fisheries. Two distinct management areas exist within each district: the Frederick Sound (Section 8-A) and Wrangell (Section 8-B) portions of District 8, and the Sumner Strait (Section 6-A) and Clarence Strait (Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D) portions of District 6. The harvest of terminal hatchery returns to the Crystal Lake, Earl West Cove, and Anita Bay hatchery facilities will be discussed in the TERMINAL HATCHERY FISHERIES portion of this management plan.

2005 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The BOF approved emergency regulations in March for a directed Chinook salmon fishery in District 8 and delegated authority to the Commissioner to sign the regulations, which will be in affect for the 2005 season. The BOF was able to reopen the Chinook salmon fishery because successful negotiations with Canada on abundance based fishing regimes and harvest sharing were concluded during a Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in February 2005. This will be the first commercial fishery directed at harvesting Stikine River Chinook salmon since 1977 when District 8 was closed to rebuild depressed Stikine River stocks. Preseason forecasts indicate that substantial returns of Chinook salmon will be available in 2005. The forecast of the Stikine stock returning to District 8 is approximately 80,000 Chinook salmon over 28", well in excess of the escapement goal point of 17,400 fish. The total Alaskan harvest by all gear groups may exceed 27,000 fish.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2005 Stikine River sockeye salmon return is expected to be considerably above average. The Tahltan sockeye salmon escapement goal of 24,000 fish was achieved in 2004 for the second consecutive year. The 2005 Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon return is expected to be considerably better than the 2004 return and well above the 1995–2004 average. The Tuya Lake enhanced sockeye salmon return is expected to be minimal and substantial returns are not expected until 2007. Returns of mainstem Stikine River sockeye salmon stocks are expected to be much higher than 2004 and considerably above the previous 10-year average. Due to the near identical return timing of the Tahltan Lake and Tuya Lake stocks, any open fishing periods in District 8, and to a limited extent in District 6, will be determined by the actual in-season abundance of the wild Tahltan Lake stock. The returns of local area sockeye salmon stocks should be similar to the past four years. Parent-year escapements into Salmon Bay, Red Bay, and Luck Lake were near the average of the previous four years. Enhanced sockeye salmon will be returning to Neck Lake for the third year in 2005. Returns in 2004 were minimal and returns are expected to be higher in 2005.

Pink Salmon

Large numbers of pink salmon are forecasted to return to District 6 spawning streams, and fisheries targeting pink salmon should be extensive. Parent-year escapements to District 6 were excellent.

Chum Salmon

No directed fishing occurs on chum salmon in either District 6 or 8. Chum salmon are caught incidentally in fisheries targeting sockeye, pink, and coho salmon. Significant returns of chum salmon to Anita Bay, as well as Ketchikan area hatcheries, may result in increased harvest in Districts 6 and 8. There will no longer be significant returns of chum salmon to the Earl West Cove THA. Chum salmon releases from EWC were discontinued in 2000 and production at this site was moved to Anita Bay. Anita Bay is expecting a total run of 125,000 summer chum salmon in 2005. Summer chum salmon productions from Ketchikan area hatcheries are expected to be higher than in 2004. Chum salmon returning to the Ketchikan area hatchery facilities migrate through District 6 and are expected to contribute significantly to the harvest in this

district. Alaska hatchery contributions to the chum salmon catch for the past ten years have averaged 35% of the District 6 catch and 22% of the District 8 catch.

Coho Salmon

The overall coho salmon returns for 2005 are expected to be similar to the 2004 returns. The combined 2004 returns to Neck Lake and Burnett Inlet in upper Clarence Strait were approximately 66,000 coho salmon. Approximately 226,000 fall coho salmon returned to enhancement projects in the Ketchikan area in 2004. Coho salmon returns to Earl West Cove have been shifted to Anita Bay. The 2004 coho salmon return to Anita Bay was approximately 7,000 fish. Wild coho salmon returns for 2005 are expected to be similar to the long-term average. Extended fishing periods in Districts 6 or 8 could occur beginning in Statistical Week 36 (August 29); however, actual fishing periods will be determined weekly inseason, based on wild coho salmon harvest rates.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the District 6 and District 8 drift gillnet fisheries for the 2005 season are as follows:

1. Achieve the Stikine River Chinook salmon escapement goal while harvesting the Alaskan share of the Chinook salmon in excess of the goal;
2. Achieve the Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal while maximizing the harvest of Tahltan Lake sockeye above that goal and maximizing the harvest of Tuya Lake sockeye salmon;
3. Achieve pink salmon spawning escapement goals in District 6 and District 7;
4. Achieve good spawning escapements of sockeye salmon in local Alaskan systems;
5. Manage the District 6 and District 8 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (5 AAC 33.361).

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chinook Salmon

The Chinook salmon season will start in District 8 at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2 and close at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 6. The length of subsequent openings will depend upon the numbers of boats fishing, the numbers of Chinook salmon harvested, and results from stock assessment projects. The allowable harvest for the first three weeks of the fishery will be based upon the pre-season forecast. The final three weeks of the fishery will be based upon inseason projections, which are derived from marking and recapturing returning Chinook salmon within the Stikine River.

Initially there will be no special mesh restrictions for the District 8 fishery. The standard 300-fathom length and 60 meshes deep net restrictions will be used in this fishery.

The Board of Fisheries adopted specific closed waters for the District 8 fishery. There are seven areas where Chinook salmon are usually concentrated that will be closed to drift gillnetting for varying lengths of time. These closures were supported by the Petersburg and/or Wrangell Advisory Committees and are designed to provide sport fishermen with exclusive areas for

fishing without interference from commercial fishing gear and/or to provide increased protection for steelhead returning to Petersburg Creek and to Bear Creek on Mitkof Island.

Closed waters for drift gillnetting in District 8 include areas near Babbler Point, Wrangell Harbor, the Nose on Woronkofski Island, Greys Pass, Banana Point on Mitkof Island, Coney Island and Point Frederick to Beacon Point. The exact closed waters will be identified in the drift gillnet news release prior to each opening. The closures at Babbler Point, Wrangell Harbor and the Nose will run through Saturday, June 11. The Greys Pass, Banana Point and Coney Island closures will run through Memorial Day, May 30. The closure from Point Frederick to Beacon Point will continue through the sockeye fishery to protect Petersburg Creek sockeye stocks. The line at the mouth of the Stikine River will be the upper line that is used during large returns of sockeye salmon. That line runs from Indian Point in LeConte Bay to Point Rothsay on the Stikine flats.

In District 8, for the week before Memorial Day, the drift gillnet fishery will be open a maximum of 2 days to prevent conflicts with the Chinook salmon derbies in Petersburg and Wrangell. There will be no openings on weekends or holidays to decrease any potential conflict with other user groups.

Drift gillnet fishermen are asked to notify management biologists, who will be monitoring the fishery, of any incidence of steelhead and any steelhead that are retained should be recorded on fish tickets.

Chinook salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold as usual. Chinook salmon less than 28" in length and those of Alaska hatchery origin will not be counted against the Alaskan share of the allowable harvest. Processors are requested to identify the numbers of Chinook salmon less than 28" on the fish tickets as well as the numbers of Chinook salmon 28" or greater. Fish and Game samplers working at the processing facilities will identify hatchery-reared Chinook salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaskan share of the harvest.

Sockeye Salmon

The length of the first sockeye opening, which will begin on Sunday, June 12 at noon, will depend on the preseason forecast for Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon. That forecast will be completed by the end of May. Current indications point towards a large return of sockeye salmon to the Stikine River. Subsequent openings will be determined inseason based on catches and stock proportion data. If inseason catch and stock data indicate that the Tahltan sockeye salmon return is strong, then more liberal fishing periods and/or mid-week openings will be allowed in District 8. Reduced fishing time in District 8 to conserve Stikine River mainstem sockeye salmon in July is not anticipated. Extended fishing time in District 6 will be based primarily on the abundance of sockeye salmon from local island stocks.

The sockeye salmon fishery in both districts will be managed in accordance with the Transboundary Rivers (TBR) Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Annex allows the District 6 fishery to be managed for harvesting local Alaskan sockeye stocks and normally is not influenced under most conditions by the presence of sockeye salmon stocks of Stikine River origin. Management of the District 8 fishery is based on the need to harvest sockeye salmon of Stikine River origin, as allowed by the sharing provisions of the TBR Annex, and the conservation of the resource.

Management actions during the sockeye salmon fishing season will be based on analysis of CPUE and stock identification data to determine the availability of Stikine River fish. These stock abundance indicators, along with fishery performance and stock composition data obtained from a Canadian test fishery, will be incorporated into a Stikine sockeye salmon management model. As the season progresses, this model will be the primary method used to estimate the availability of sockeye salmon for harvest by the Alaskan drift gillnet fishery in District 8 and the Canadian inriver fisheries. Any conservation measures required for Stikine River sockeye salmon are implemented first in District 8 followed by Sumner Strait in District 6. Reductions in fishing time, area or district-wide closures will be used when conservation measures are needed. All openings will be based upon the most recent Stikine sockeye model update and the current weekly sockeye salmon harvest.

The numbers of Stikine River sockeye generally begin to decrease in mid-July and other stocks including McDonald Lake sockeye salmon begin to pass through the fishery. McDonald Lake sockeye escapements have been below the escapement goal for three of the past five seasons. Because of an increasing concern for this productive system, a more conservative fishing regime may occur during the peak of the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon return.

Any announcements of fishery extensions or mid-week openings will be made on the fishing grounds by 10:00 a.m. of the last day of the regular fishery opening. Open area and fishing time during any extensions may not necessarily be the same as the general weekly opening.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon normally begin entering District 6 in significant numbers by the third or fourth week of July. The early portion of the pink salmon fishery will be managed primarily on CPUE and parent year escapement. By mid-August, pink salmon destined for local systems will begin to enter the fishery in greater numbers and at that time, management will be based on observed escapements.

Coho Salmon

The coho salmon season will begin during late August or early September. Management of the District 6 fishery will be based predominantly on wild stock CPUE. Crystal Lake Hatchery, Burnett Inlet Hatchery, facilities in the Ketchikan area, the Anita Bay remote release site, and the Neck Lake remote release site at Whale Pass all contribute coho salmon to the District 6 and District 8 fisheries. Inseason estimates from coded wire tag recovery data will be used to identify the hatchery component of the harvest.

Screen Island Shore Drift Gillnet

Regulation 5 AAC 33.310(c)(2)(B) allows drift gillnetting along the Screen Island shore of Section 6-D only during the early and late portions of the season. Specifically, this area encompasses those waters of Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on the shore of Etolin Island at 56°09.60' N. latitude, 132°42.70' W. longitude to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope. Actions by the BOF, based on an agreement between drift gillnet and purse seine representatives at the board meeting in February of 2000 increased the fishing time for drift gillnetting in this area by one week on each end of the closure. The periods when fishing may be allowed are now: 1) from the second Sunday in June (June 12) through the first Saturday in August (August 6) and, 2) from the first Sunday in September (September 4) until the season is closed. During this time, drift gillnetting is allowed during the same time periods that the adjoining waters of Section 6-C are open.

TAKU/SNETTISHAM GILLNET FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Taku/Snettisham (District 11) gillnet area encompasses Section 11-B (Taku Inlet, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage north of Midway Island) and Section 11-C (Midway Island south to a line from Point League to Point Hugh). This fishery has traditionally targeted sockeye salmon during the early portion of the season and fall chum and coho salmon later in the season. In recent years, the fishery has also targeted hatchery summer chum and sockeye salmon.

2005 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

In 2003 the Board of Fisheries adopted regulatory language establishing directed Chinook salmon commercial drift gillnet and sport fisheries in Taku Inlet contingent upon the outcome of Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations with Canada. At a Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in February 2005, negotiations with Canada successfully established agreed upon abundance based fishing regimes and harvest sharing arrangements. The result of this agreement will allow for opening the first commercial fishery directed at harvesting Taku River Chinook salmon since 1975 when District 11 was closed to rebuild depressed Taku River stocks. Preseason forecasts indicate that substantial returns of Chinook salmon will be available in 2005. The forecast of the Taku stock returning to District 11 is approximately 99,600 Chinook salmon over 28", well in excess of the escapement point goal of 36,000 fish. Based on the preseason forecast of terminal run the total Alaskan allowable catch is approximately 23,000 fish.

Sockeye Salmon

The total return of wild Taku River sockeye salmon in 2005 is expected to be about average. This is based on both spawner-recruit analysis and a sibling forecast. The 2000 main parent year escapement of 75,500 fish was just above the PST escapement goal 75,000 fish, and below the ten-year average escapement of approximately 100,000 sockeye salmon. The 2001 parent year had an escapement of 144,300 fish. Adult returns to date from the joint U.S./Canada Taku River sockeye salmon enhancement project at Tatsamenie Lake have been very low and the number of enhanced sockeye salmon returning to Tatsamenie Lake is not expected to contribute significant numbers of fish to harvest in 2005. Returns of wild Port Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks are difficult to project because escapement enumeration programs were not in place during all brood years. Escapement through the Speel Lake weir of the 2000 parent year was 6,800 sockeye salmon, and the escapement in 2001 was 8,100 sockeye salmon, both below average but within the escapement goal range of 4,000–13,000 sockeye salmon. The peak aerial survey estimates for Crescent Lake escapements in parent year 2000 was 6,100 fish, and in 2001 was 13,500 fish. The 1990 to 2004 average is 8,400 fish. Enhanced sockeye salmon returning to the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) Snettisham Hatchery are forecast to total 265,000 fish.

Chum Salmon

Approximately 294,000 summer chum salmon are forecast to return in 2005 from DIPAC hatchery releases in Gastineau Channel, and 129,000 chum from Limestone Inlet remote releases. The total estimated DIPAC chum salmon contribution to the Section 11-B drift gillnet fishery is 253,00 fish. Additional fishing time can again be expected south of Circle Point in order to harvest summer chum salmon returns to the Limestone Inlet remote release site. As in recent years, ADF&G may implement a six-inch minimum mesh size restriction south of Circle

Point to reduce the harvest rate on wild sockeye salmon returning to Crescent and Speel lakes. Returns of fall chum salmon to the Taku River are expected to be poor.

Pink Salmon

Returns of pink salmon to District 11 systems are expected to be above average in 2005. Parent year pink salmon escapements to District 11 were excellent overall but numbers through the Canyon Island fish wheel were below the odd-year average, and indicated below average escapement in the Taku River. The pink salmon program at DIPAC has been discontinued and there will be no returns in 2005.

Coho Salmon

Returns of Taku River coho salmon are expected to be poor. Parent-year escapements of coho salmon in Canadian portions of the Taku River were 104,400 fish in 2001, and a record 219,800 fish in 2002. However, the smolt outmigration of 2004 was very poor, 550,000 smolt compared to the recent average outmigration of over 2,000,000. Assuming a 10% ocean survival and 35% exploitation rate, the inriver run is anticipated at 33,000 fish, below the escapement goal of 38,000 coho salmon. DIPAC projects a 2005 return of approximately 78,000 hatchery coho salmon from their smolt releases into Gastineau Channel, comparable to recent years.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2005 Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Provide for sufficient salmon spawning escapements to Taku River, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage streams while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs;
2. Monitor the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon to stay within the Board of Fisheries Southeast drift gillnet allocation of 7,600 non-Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon;
3. Manage the fishery consistent with current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361);
4. Maximize the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon returning to Limestone Inlet while minimizing the incidental harvest of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon;
5. Manage the return of enhanced Port Snettisham sockeye salmon consistent with the Board of Fisheries Snettisham Hatchery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.378);
6. Manage the Speel Lake sockeye salmon return to achieve an escapement to the lake of between 4,000 to 13,000 spawners. This goal is a biological escapement goal based on an updated analysis completed during the winter of 2002–2003;
7. Manage the District 11 directed Chinook fishery to harvest large adult Chinook in accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty and emergency regulations.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 11 gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with the Transboundary River (TBR) Annex of the PST. Harvest sharing arrangements for Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon through the 2008 fishing season are specified in the annex.

Chinook Salmon

Directed Chinook salmon fishing in Section 11-B will open by regulation on Monday May 2 at 12:01 p.m. and close at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 4. The length of subsequent openings will depend upon the numbers of boats fishing, the numbers of Chinook salmon harvested, and results from stock assessment projects. There will be no openings on weekends or holidays

Regulations adopted by the BOF provide for a 7.5 inch maximum mesh size restriction through the third Sunday in June for the District 11 fishery. The standard 200 fathom length and 60 meshes deep net restrictions will be used in this fishery.

The waters open to drift gillnet fishing prior to the third Sunday in June are the waters of Section 11-B north of the latitude of Cove Point and south and east of a line from a point at 58° 12.33.00' N. lat., 134° 10.00' W. long. to Cove Point (5 AAC 33.310 (c)(4)(A)).

Chinook salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold as usual. Chinook salmon less than 28" in length and those of Alaska hatchery origin will not be counted against the Alaskan share of the allowable harvest. Processors are requested to identify the numbers of Chinook salmon less than 28" on the fish tickets as well as the numbers of Chinook salmon 28" or greater. Fish and Game samplers working at the processing facilities will identify hatchery-reared Chinook salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaskan share of the harvest.

Sockeye Salmon

Section 11-B will open for directed sockeye salmon fishing on the third Sunday in June (June 19) for a three-day fishing period. Subsequent openings will be based on inseason fishery performance and stock assessment information. The Canadian inriver gillnet fishery is allocated 18% of the total allowable catch (TAC) of wild Taku sockeye salmon originating from Canadian portions of the Taku drainage, and can harvest 20% of inriver escapements above 100,000 sockeye salmon. Harvests of sockeye salmon produced from joint U.S./Canada enhancement programs in the Taku River are to be shared equally by the two countries. The incidental harvests of coho salmon in the Canadian directed sockeye salmon fishery are allowed with directed harvests of 3,000 to 10,000 coho salmon, depending on run size.

The District 11 fishery will be managed through mid-August primarily on the basis of sockeye salmon abundance. Run strength will be evaluated using fishery catch and CPUE data and weekly inriver run size estimates derived from the Taku River fish wheel mark-recapture project operated at Canyon Island. Contribution of enhanced stocks of sockeye salmon will be estimated inseason by analysis of salmon otoliths sampled from the commercial harvests. The age and stock compositions of the harvest of wild sockeye salmon will be estimated after the fishing season by analysis of scale pattern and parasite incidence data from commercial catch samples.

The return of enhanced Port Snettisham sockeye salmon will be managed according to the Board of Fisheries' Snettisham Hatchery Management Plan. The plan provides basic guidelines for managing enhanced sockeye salmon production from Port Snettisham including the following provisions, in order of priority:

1. Sustainable production of wild sockeye salmon from Crescent and Speel Lakes;
2. Management of enhanced Snettisham sockeye salmon returns may not prevent achieving escapement goals or PST harvest sharing agreements for Taku River salmon stocks;
3. Assessment programs shall be conducted to estimate Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stock escapements and contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon to the District 11 commercial fishery;
4. Common property harvests in the Speel Arm SHA shall be conducted by limiting time and area to protect wild sockeye salmon returns.

Peak migration timing for wild Snettisham sockeye salmon through Stephens Passage is normally from mid-July through the first week in August. Because of expectations for a poor return of Tatsamenie Lake sockeye salmon, fishing time in Section 11-B north of Circle Point could be limited to two days per week during the peak of the return timing for that stock (statistical weeks 31 through 33). Fishing time inriver may be limited to two days per week during weeks 31–33.

Management of the fishery in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point will focus on conservation of the wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks, particularly in July however extended fishing time is expected in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point to harvest the return of enhanced summer chum salmon to the Limestone Inlet remote release site. ADF&G may implement a six-inch minimum mesh size restriction in Section 11-B south of Circle Point beginning in early July to minimize the incidental harvest of wild Port Snettisham sockeye salmon during these openings. The mesh restriction in Section 11-B, if implemented, may be relaxed at the end of July or after the peak migration timing of wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks through Stephens Passage.

Port Snettisham Limited Area

At the November 2004 Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Task Force meeting, ADF&G agreed, on a trial basis only, to open a limited area inside Port Snettisham in conjunction with the common property opening in 11-B during statistical week 31 (July 24). At this time the department is considering the area of Speel Arm north of the latitude of Prospect Point to the latitude of Bride Point for this approach. This trial area will be open during the first 24 hours of the 3–4 day fishery during that week. DIPAC agreed to provide on the grounds samplers, analyze otoliths, and inform ADF&G of results within a few days.

ADF&G has not committed to more than one opening of this trial area. Consideration of further trial openings will depend on fishery performance, stock composition of the harvest, Speel Lake escapement, and DIPACs cost recovery and broodstock needs. Port Snettisham is generally closed east of a line from Point Amner to Point Styleman through the end of July to limit overall harvest rates on wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks. Commercial openings occur inside Port Snettisham after this time if wild stock escapements are developing adequately.

DIPAC Speel Arm Special Harvest Area

Common property fishery openings are expected to occur during August in the DIPAC Speel Arm SHA, which is located in waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03.42' N. latitude. Timing of these openings will depend on DIPAC progress toward brood stock and cost recovery goals and the sockeye salmon escapement to Speel Lake. DIPAC cost recovery efforts in the SHA during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated.

Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm SHA will be made jointly by ADF&G and DIPAC. As mentioned above, ADF&G and industry formalized the notification procedure for any extended fishery openings in Speel Arm.

The Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Task Force agreement specified:

1. That ADF&G include notice in the Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met;
2. That ADF&G include notice in the region wide news release on or near the end of July that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met;
3. If an announcement is made for extended fishing time in Speel Arm, ADF&G shall provide a minimum of **six hours** notice from the time of the news release to the time the fishery opens.

A personal use fishery will be allowed in Sweetheart Creek to ensure enhanced returns to this site are fully utilized; Sweetheart Creek is blocked to anadromous fish migration several hundred yards upstream from the mouth. The Sweetheart Creek personal use fishery will be open seven-days per week.

Pink salmon will be harvested in Section 11-B incidental to the sockeye salmon and enhanced summer chum fisheries. Fishing time for a directed pink fishery in Section 11-C will depend upon the strength of pink salmon returns in lower Stephens Passage, Seymour Canal, and the northern portions of District 10. Returns will be closely monitored and if surpluses are present, openings could occur in August.

Beginning in mid-August, management of the Taku/Snettisham gillnet fishery will be based on the run strength of coho and fall chum salmon. The Transboundary River Annex of the PST calls for the U.S. to manage its fisheries to achieve a minimum above-border run size of 38,000 coho salmon. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of the fishery catch, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels, inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark-recapture project, and recovery of coded wire tagged wild Taku River and hatchery coho salmon in marine fisheries. Coho salmon is the primary species managed during the fall season, but area and time restrictions may be necessary to further protect the weaker fall chum salmon returns.

In order to avoid gear conflicts, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2005 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby (August 5–7). Consequently, during Statistical Week 32, the District 11 gillnet fishery will not open until Monday, August 8.

LYNN CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery operates in the waters of District 15. The district is divided into three regulatory sections: 15-A (upper Lynn Canal), 15-B (Berners Bay), and 15-C (lower Lynn Canal). The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery targets sockeye, summer chum, coho, and fall chum salmon. Chinook and pink salmon are taken incidentally.

Sockeye salmon are targeted from June through early September. The primary stocks originate in Chilkat and Chilkoot lakes, Berners Bay rivers, and mainstem spawning areas of the Chilkat River. Both the Chilkat and Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon populations have early and late-run stock components with separate escapement goals.

Hatchery and wild summer chum salmon are harvested from late June through early August, and fall chum and coho salmon are targeted from September through mid-October. The primary fall chum salmon stocks originate in the Klehini and Chilkat rivers and the primary coho salmon stocks originate in the Chilkat and Berners Bay rivers.

The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery targets sockeye, summer chum, coho, and fall chum salmon. Chinook and pink salmon also are taken as incidental harvest. The sockeye salmon run in Lynn Canal has historically been among the largest in Southeast Alaska. The coho salmon run to the Chilkat River is among the largest in northern Southeast Alaska. Currently sockeye salmon, Lynn Canal coho and fall chum salmon stocks are healthy. In recent years, total returns of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon have improved and fishing effort has been directed on this stock. Fall chum salmon returns have improved in recent years since a decline in abundance beginning in 1989. Results from aerial escapement information and mark-recapture work, indicate improved returns of Chilkat River fall chum salmon.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Specific management goals for the 2005 Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Obtain an escapement of between 50,500 and 91,500 sockeye salmon to Chilkoot Lake. The escapement objective for the early stock is 16,500 fish through week 28 (July 9) and 34,000 for the late stock;
2. Obtain an escapement of between 52,000 and 106,000 sockeye salmon to Chilkat Lake. The escapement objective for the early stock is 17,500 fish through week 33 (August 13) and 47,500 for the late stock;
3. Obtain an escapement of between 1,750–3,500 three-ocean age and older king salmon to the Chilkat River;
4. Obtain a peak foot escapement count between 4,000 and 9,200 coho salmon to Berners River;
5. Provide for sufficient chum, coho, and pink salmon spawning escapements to the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Berners rivers and other Lynn Canal systems, while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs;
6. Manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery in a manner that is consistent with the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River Chinook salmon fishery management plan.

2005 OUTLOOK

Sockeye Salmon

The 2005 total forecasted return of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon is approximately 84,000 fish. The expected return is 40% of the 1976 to 2004 historical average of 213,800 fish and the lowest preseason forecast of total return on record. The 2005 run size of Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon are expected to be above average during 2005.

Although escapement estimates to Chilkat Lake were above or within the biological escapement goal range for the dominant broods years (1999 and 2000), the smolt estimate in 2002 was the lowest estimate on record indicating that returns of 3-ocean age fish will be weak in 2005. Historically, 71.4% of the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon escapements are 3-ocean age fish (32% are age-1.3 fish, 39.1% are age-2.3 fish and 0.3% are age-3.3 fish). Sockeye salmon smolt production from Chilkat Lake in 2002 and 2003, the dominant smolt years for the 2004 return,

were estimated to be 0.43 million fish and 1.45 million fish, respectively. These smolt abundance estimates are 25% and 85%, respectively, of the historical 1989–1990 and 1994–2004 average of 1.7 million smolt.

Mark-recapture estimates of the Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon escapements in 2000, 2001, and 2002, (the dominant parent-years) were 54,300, 21,900, and 41,000 fish, respectively. The estimates of parent-year abundance for the 2005 return were well below the historical 1994–2004 average of 32,700 fish for brood year 2001 but well above average years 2000 and 2002. The year 2000 abundance estimate is the highest on record. The dominant age classes for this run includes age-0.2 (19.6%), 0.3 (38.4%), and age-1.3 (31.2%) fish. The proportion of age-1.2 of the 2004 escapement was the second highest on record indicating that the 2005 return of age-1.3 fish to the mainstem Chilkat River may be significantly larger than average. The Lower Chilkat River fish wheel project has been providing inseason stock assessment and post-season escapement estimates of Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon since 1994.

Returns of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon in 2005 is expected to be near the long-term average of approximately 168,000 fish. The Chilkoot River weir is used to monitor this stock inseason. The Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon weir count during the dominant parental brood year (2000) for the 2005 return was 43,600 fish (7,900 early run and 35,700 late run). The early run was below escapement goals but the late run just exceeded the lower end of the escapement goal range. Although the 2001 fall hydroacoustic estimate was below average, zooplankton abundance was well above average during 2001; the year the majority of sockeye salmon returning in 2005 would have been rearing in the lake. The estimated average size of age-1.0 and 2.0 smolt leaving the lake in 2002 was near average. Management will be monitoring the escapements during 2005 closely and will implement management decisions to the commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery to target escapement levels near the lower end of the escapement goal range for Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon.

While the indicators listed above suggest a better return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon this year, it should be noted that the dominant parent year escapement (2000) was the fourth lowest on record and the 2001 fall hydroacoustic estimate of pre-smolt was below average. The total return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon in 2000 was also the fourth lowest on record. Age composition of the 2004 escapement was near average for most of the dominant age classes. Given this information, ADF&G will continue to base management decisions for the District 15 drift gillnet fishery on inseason data.

An average run of Berners Bay sockeye salmon is expected in 2005. Total escapement estimates are not available for Berners Bay sockeye salmon systems. Peak aerial escapements to Berners Bay streams were above average for all brood years. The average dominant age classes for Berners Bay streams are age-0.3 (15.4%), 1.2 (13%), and age-1.3 (67.4%). The dominant age classes of the 2004 escapement were near the historical average. The 2000 and 2001 commercial harvest of Berners Bay and Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon were estimated at 26,900 and 21,400 fish respectively. The harvests were both above the historic 1976–2004 average harvest of 14,400 fish.

Summer Chum

The majority of the summer chum salmon harvest is comprised of hatchery fish from remote release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor. Smaller numbers of wild chum salmon are produced from local area streams such as Sawmill Creek and other Berners Bay rivers on the

eastern side of Lynn Canal. The Endicott, Beardslee, and St. James rivers located on the western side of Lynn Canal are also important contributors to the wild summer chum salmon to the drift gillnet fishery.

Projections for the Boat Harbor area return are approximately 277,000 fish, an increase from last seasons projection and 1.9 times the 1991–2004 average. The preliminary projection for the Amalga Harbor project is approximately 489,000 fish, 44% of the 1994–2004 average of 1,097,700 fish. The below average projected return to the Amalga Harbor release site is due mostly to poor rearing and release conditions at Amalga Harbor in the spring of 2002. Based on parental-year escapement counts, the wild summer chum salmon return in 2005 should be average to above average in run strength but at a much lower scale than the hatchery summer chum salmon return.

Peak aerial escapement counts of summer chum salmon in Sawmill Creek in 2000, 2001, and 2002 were 13,000, 720, and 399 fish respectively. The peak aerial escapements are well above the 1995–2004 average for this index system in the year 2000 and below average for brood years 2001 and 2002. Cumulative peak counts of chum salmon in western Lynn Canal streams in brood years 2000, 2001, and 2002 were 4,680, 7,100, and 8,600 fish respectively. All peak counts conducted during these brood years exceeded the ten-year average.

Fall Chum Salmon

The 2005 return of fall chum salmon stocks is expected to be above average. For the Chilkat River, the peak aerial survey counts were 61,200 and 3,200 fish (2000 and 2001), well above the peak aerial escapement average of 15,800 for the year 2000 but well below this average in brood year 2001. Peak aerial counts in the Klehini River were 16,900 and 1,600 fish respectively. The escapements during the dominant parental broods years were well above average in 2000 and well below average in 2001.

The fishery performance in the dominant parental brood years (2000 and 2001) was above the 10-year average. Escapements of Chilkat River fall chum salmon since 1999 have improved. Management strategies designed to sway harvests away from these stocks have been successful. Fish wheel counts, mark-recapture estimates and aerial escapement surveys have indicated an increasing trend in escapement since 1999.

Coho Salmon

The Lynn Canal coho salmon return is expected to be average during 2005. Coho salmon systems in the area include the Chilkat River, Berners River and Chilkoot River. Parent-year survey counts at the Chilkat River tributaries and Chilkoot River drainage were generally above the ten-year average. The 2002 mark-recapture estimate for Chilkat River drainage coho salmon was 209,300, the highest estimate on record. The 2001 and 2002 escapements to Berners Bay were within and above the escapement goal range of 4,000 to 9,200 fish. Sport Fish Division has been conducting coho salmon smolt coded wire-tagging (CWT) studies on the Chilkat River to estimate smolt size, age structure, and production of coho salmon smolts since 1999. The 2004 trap CPUE of coho smolt of 3.8 smolt/trap-day was well below the 1999–2003 average of 5.7 fish/trap-day indicating that the record escapement in 2002 possibly led to decreased production of Chilkat River coho salmon. The 2001 and 2002 Chilkat River fish wheel catch of 2,550 and 5,090 coho exceeded the 1994–2004 average for both years. The District 15 gillnet catch of 34,200 coho salmon in 2001 and 77,900 in 2002 was approximately 73% of the previous ten-

year average for 2001 and 1.7 times this average in 2002. Escapement estimates during the parental brood years for the 2005 return were above the escapement goal range. Jack coho salmon returns in 2004 were well above average for Berners Bay streams.

The cumulative coho salmon Chilkoot River weir count through September 11 was the highest on record indicating a strong early return. In most years, the weir was operated primarily for sockeye salmon and has been removed prior to the peak of the coho salmon return.

Chinook Salmon

The 2005 preseason forecast for mature (≥ age 1.3) Chilkat River Chinook salmon is estimated to be above the upper range of the biological escapement goal of 1,750–3,600 fish. The Alaska BOF adopted the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River Chinook fishery management plan at the last meeting in Ketchikan during February 2003. This plan provides the framework necessary to manage the existing fisheries that harvest Chilkat drainage Chinook salmon for desired escapement. Management actions have been implemented to reduce the incidental take of Chilkat River Chinook salmon. These management actions have been effective in conserving Chilkat River Chinook salmon stocks as the biological escapement goal has been met or exceeded each year since 1991.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2005, ADF&G intends to manage the summer Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery to obtain the lower ends of the escapement goal ranges for early and late stocks of Chilkoot Lake and Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon. ADF&G intends to manage the fishery to minimize harvest of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon through the summer season in 2005. Expected below average returns of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon will influence management decisions. The fall Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery will be managed to conserve fall chum salmon while providing opportunity to harvest coho salmon.

Section 15-A

Section 15-A will open for two days south of the latitude of Seduction Point beginning 12:01 p.m., Sunday June 19 (statistical week 26) with no mesh restriction. If the Chilkoot River weir count through June 16 is less than 4,500 sockeye salmon, the eastern side of Section 15-A will be closed. If the weir count is 4,500 sockeye salmon or greater, the eastern portion of 15-A may be opened. During the first three weeks of the season, Chilkat Inlet will be managed in accordance to the Chilkat River Chinook Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

If the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon return is similar to expectations, all of Section 15-A south of the latitude of Seduction point may be opened during the fourth week of the season for 2 or 3 days. Based on the relatively poor expected return of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon in 2005, fishing opportunity along the western shoreline of Section 15-A will be limited to 2 or 3 days. Chilkat River mainstem fish have a return timing that overlaps the Chilkat Lake early sockeye salmon run. The Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon return is expected to be above average. Fishing effort will target this stock during the first four weeks in western Section 15-A.

Additional fishing opportunity in Chilkoot Inlet north of the latitude of Mud Bay Point for 2 or 3 days in weeks 31 through 37 may be possible if the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon escapement is within desired levels. If the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon return is worse than expected (run not

forecasted to meet minimum escapement goals), limits in time and area of Section 15-A will be implemented by ADF&G until we can project sockeye escapement within goal ranges.

Fall fishery management in Section 15-A will begin from week 35 until the end of the season. As in recent years, the northern boundary line in Section 15-A will move southward in stages as the coho and fall chum salmon stocks begin to migrate back to parental streams. Depending on effort levels, coho and chum salmon run strength, fishing opportunity in Section 15-A may be similar to openings in 2004.

Section 15-B

Based on preseason expectations for the coho salmon return to Berners Bay, Section 15-B may be opened from week 38 to the end of the season south of the latitude of Cove Point for 2 or 3 days. Inseason information collected from coded wire tag recoveries and commercial harvest from various gear types will provide the data to manage fishing opportunity is Section 15-B.

Section 15-C

Section 15-C will open for two days beginning 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 19 with no mesh restriction. If the Chilkoot River weir count is less than 4,500 sockeye salmon through June 16, the eastern side of Section 15-C will be closed north of the latitude of Bridget Point (excluding the Boat Harbor area).

Due to the expected below average returns of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon, open fishing time in Section 15-C will be limited to 2 or 3 days (except for the Boat Harbor area). If inseason projections for the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon return are below the escapement goal range, it is possible that additional time; area and gear restrictions will be implemented in Section 15-C during the summer season.

Openings of the small area in eastern Section 15-C defined as: the waters of Section 15-C from the eastern shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light to Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light, may occur on the 3rd or 4th day during peak weeks (statistical weeks 27 through 31) of the hatchery chum salmon return. In Section 15-C, a decision to use this strategy will be considered inseason based on inseason stock assessment information collected from the Chilkat River fish wheels, Chilkat Lake weir, Chilkoot River weir and site specific scale sampling of the commercial fishery.

The Boat Harbor Terminal area, defined as those waters within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal from the latitude of Danger Point at 58^{o}41.73' N. latitude south to a point 2.4 miles north of Point Whidbey at 58^{o}37.05' N. latitude, will be opened for extended periods beginning in statistical week 28, (July 3). The northern line of the Boat Harbor area will remain at the latitude of Danger Point through week 31. The purpose of this change in area is to decrease the exploitation rate on wild Endicott River and other western Lynn Canal wild chum salmon stocks that migrate through this area during the early summer season. This action has been in place for the last three seasons. ADF&G believes that escapements of wild chum salmon to the Endicott River have improved because of this action.

The area within the Boat Harbor area west of a line from the entrance to the Boat Harbor proper area will be opened continuously beginning the first week of the season. This strategy will be used to harvest expected large returns of hatchery chum salmon while fish are bright and while there is no risk to natural salmon stocks.

Fall season management will begin in late August or early September in Section 15-C. Management of Section 15-C during the fall season will be based on coho and chum salmon overall run strength and fishing effort levels. Fishing effort will be directed at harvesting coho salmon in Section 15-C while limiting the harvest of fall chum salmon. Fishing time will be limited from 2 to 4 days each, beginning in statistical week 34.

To avoid gear conflicts, the District 15 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby. Consequently, during Statistical Week 33, the District 15 gillnet fishery will not open until Monday, August 8.

As in previous years, ADF&G's management crews as part of the marine fishery performance project will be on the fishing grounds during commercial fishing periods to sample sockeye and chinook salmon and to monitor the fishery during each opening. The department requests that commercially caught sockeye and king salmon are retained in separate fish holds or totes so department staff can collect scale and length data from salmon while on the grounds monitoring the fishery. The sockeye salmon scale samples that are collected from the commercial gillnet fishery form the basis of our stock separation analysis. ADF&G vessels stand by on **channel 10 VHF** when on the fishing grounds.

TERMINAL HATCHERY FISHERIES

For the 2005 season, drift gillnet terminal area fisheries can be expected in Deep Inlet, Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Eastern Passage (Earl West Cove), Anita Bay, Speel Arm, and Boat Harbor to harvest salmon returning to DIPAC, NSRAA, and SSRAA enhancement facilities.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fishery at Deep Inlet will be managed jointly with NSRAA and according to the BOF management plan. The open drift gillnet fishing times and any modifications of the terminal fishing area will be announced by ADF&G news releases prior to, and during, the fishing season.

Terminal Area – Deep Inlet [5 AAC 33.376]

NSRAA expects a return of 2,300,000 chum salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2005. Cost recovery and broodstock goals for the Deep Inlet returns are 485,000 fish and 50,000 fish respectively, allowing for a common property harvest of approximately 1,765,000 chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. Actual numbers of chum salmon harvested for cost recovery will be adjusted to achieve a total weight of 3.88 million pounds. The majority of the common property harvest can be expected to occur in the Deep Inlet THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear, but some harvest is likely outside the THA by troll and purse seine gear as well.

The NSRAA board has requested that the common property rotational fishery begin May 1 in order to provide for additional common property harvest of Chinook salmon returning to the Medvejie Hatchery. NSRAA expects a return of 62,400 Chinook salmon to Medvejie Hatchery in 2005. THA rotational gear fisheries are scheduled to begin on Sunday, May 1 and continue through June 28 with four days of drift gillnet and two days of purse seine per week. During the period May 1–May 21 the western boundary of the THA from Long Island to the Baranof Island

shoreline will be moved eastward to 135° 21.52' W. longitude to exclude a small area traditionally used by trollers during May.

The NSRAA board decided at their March meeting in Sitka that THA openings in July would be reduced and area within Deep Inlet would be closed in order to help achieve the season's cost recovery goal, and to reach 50% of the cost recovery goal by August 1. NSRAA plans to begin cost recovery fishing in late June or during the first week of July. The THA rotational schedule will change to two days of purse seine and four days of drift gillnet once NSRAA has reached or is close to reaching the cost recovery goal for the season. The change in schedule is expected to occur sometime during the mid-August period of peak returns. The NSRAA board has directed NSRAA staff to manage cost recovery fishing in-season in order to achieve the cost recovery goal. A portion of Deep Inlet south of 56°58.50' N. latitude would be closed beginning July 3 until cost recovery goals can be met. If necessary, the THA rotational gear fisheries may be fully closed in order to achieve the cost recovery goal.

The following rotational fishing schedule will be in effect for the 2005 season:

May 1–June 28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seine	Gillnet	Gillnet	Seine/Troll*	Seine/Troll*	Gillnet	Gillnet

*Seine and Troll gear alternates between Wednesday and Thursday.

From Sunday, July 3 until cost recovery goals are met:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seine	CR/Troll	CR/Troll	Gillnet	Gillnet	CR/Troll	CR/Troll

After cost recovery goals are met until the end of the season:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seine	Gillnet	Gillnet	Seine/Troll*	Seine/Troll*	Gillnet	Gillnet

*Seine and Troll gear alternates between Wednesday and Thursday.

The schedule indicated above is subject to inseason adjustments to ensure that NSRAA cost recovery remains on schedule and the seasonal cost recovery goal is achieved. A detailed initial schedule for common property harvest in the THA will be published in a news release at the outset of the season. When changes are necessary, the revised schedule will be issued in a subsequent news release.

Cost recovery management is planned such that NSRAA may conduct cost recovery in the Deep Inlet Special Harvest area and in the Silver Bay Special Harvest Area. The Silver Bay Special Harvest area is expanded including most of Silver Bay and Eastern Channel east of a line from Makhnati Island to Sentinel Rock to Cape Burunof through July 23 and after the troll coho salmon closure in August. The Silver Bay SHA is reduced in area to Eastern Channel and Silver Bay east of Galankin Island to Silver Point from July 24 through the August troll closure.

The Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed jointly with NSRAA, and in accordance with the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Management Plan (5 AAC 33.376). The plan provides for the distribution of the harvest of hatchery-produced salmon between the purse seine and drift gillnet fleets. The ratio of drift gillnet fishing time to purse seine fishing time will be 2:1. Additionally, the BOF has allowed trolling to occur when net fisheries are closed and when trolling does not interfere with cost recovery.

The terminal harvest area during the 2005 season for the period May 1–May 21 will be as follows:

> **Deep Inlet THA**: Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters east of 135° 21.52' W. longitude (southernmost latitude of Long Island to a point on the Baranof Island shore east of the entrance of Samsing Cove) and south of a line from the easternmost tip of Long Island to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island to the westernmost tip of Error Island to the westernmost tip of Berry Island to the southernmost tip of Berry Island to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 135º 17.67' W. longitude, 57º 00.30' N. latitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 135º 16.78' W. longitude, 57º 00.08' N. latitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 135º 16.53' W. longitude 56º 59.93' N. latitude with the following restrictions: all waters of Sandy Cove and Leesoffskaia Bay will be closed.

The terminal harvest area during the 2005 season for the period May 22 until the end of the season will be as follows:

> **Deep Inlet THA**: Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 135°22.63' W. longitude, 56°59.35' N. latitude to the westernmost tip of Long Island to the easternmost tip of Long Island to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island to the westernmost tip of Error Island to the westernmost tip of Berry Island to the southernmost tip of Berry Island to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 135°17.67' W. longitude, 57°00.30' N. latitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 135°16.78' W. longitude, 57°00.08' N. latitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 135°16.53' W. longitude 56°59.93' N. latitude with the following restrictions: all waters of Sandy Cove and Leesoffskaia Bay will be closed.

From July 3 and until cost recovery goals are assured of being met, portions of Deep Inlet south of 56°58.50' N. latitude will be closed to provide an area for cost recovery.

During the 2005 season, the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA may be changed by NSRAA and ADF&G to help resolve conflicts between fishers and local private landowners in the area if they occur. Conflicts can be avoided by reducing boat wakes in areas near private docks, by reducing

excessive noise and lights prior to openings, and by anchoring well away from private residences.

In order to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho and sockeye salmon, and to allow full and accurate reporting of returns, the Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed in 2005 by emergency order under authority of 5 AAC 39.325 FULL RETENTION AND UTILIZATION OF SALMON. This requires that all salmon harvested in net fisheries are retained, utilized, and reported on fish tickets whether they are sold or retained for personal use.

In early September, the Deep Inlet THA boundaries may be adjusted by ADF&G to reduce interception of wild coho salmon returning to Salmon Lake and hatchery coho salmon broodstock returning to Medvejie Hatchery and Sheldon Jackson College Hatchery needed for broodstock. THA boundary adjustments to protect coho salmon will be based on historic run timing and inseason observations of abundance. Since voluntary compliance with reporting of coho salmon in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area fishery has in the past been poor and ADF&G needs detailed information on coho and sockeye salmon harvest patterns, personnel from ADF&G or Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement may board some vessels and conduct hold inspections to ensure compliance as well as to sample marked coho for coded wire tags.

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fisheries at Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Earl West Cove (Eastern Passage), and Anita Bay will be managed jointly with SSRAA and according to Board of Fisheries management plans. The open drift gillnet fishing times listed here were agreed upon by the SSRAA Board of Directors but are subject to change if necessary. Any changes to these schedules will be announced via news releases prior to, and during, the fishing season.

Terminal Area – Neets Bay [5 AAC 33.370]

From May 15 through the second Saturday in June the Neets Bay THA shall include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of the easternmost point of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay. From the second Sunday in June through the third Sunday in July, the Neets Bay THA shall include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the closed waters at the head of the bay. After the third Sunday in July, the Neets Bay THA consists of those waters east of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay.

In 2005, SSRAA is expecting a total return of 1.33 million summer chum, 221,000 fall chum, 300,000 coho, and 14,500 Chinook salmon to return to Neets Bay.

The fisheries in Neets Bay will be opened by ADF&G via emergency order in consultation with SSRAA. The Neets Bay fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.370 and the gillnet fisheries will open according to the following schedule:

May: The Neets Bay fishery will open May 15 beginning at 12:01 AM and ending at 11:59 PM May 31. The fishery is open to all fishers at all times unless closed by emergency order.

The remaining openings for the Neets Bay gillnet fishery follow in Table 2.

Table 2.–Neets Bay gillnet fishery openings schedule, June 1 through October 12..

Month	Neets Bay Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
June	June 1 (Wednesday) noon	through June 3 (Friday) noon
	June 6 (Monday) noon	through June 8 (Wednesday) noon
	June 11 (Saturday) noon	through June 13 (Monday) noon
	June 16 (Thursday) noon	through June 18 (Saturday) noon
September	September 25 (Sunday) noon	through September 27 (Tuesday) noon
	September 30 (Friday) noon	through October 2 (Sunday) noon
October	October 5 (Wednesday) noon	through October 7 (Friday) noon
	October 10 (Monday) noon	through October 12 (Wednesday) noon

Effective 12:01 AM Saturday, October 15, 2005 the Neets Bay terminal harvest area will be open to the harvest of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area will close for the season at 11:59 PM Monday, November 14, 2005.

Terminal Area—Nakat Inlet [5 AAC 33.372]

The Nakat Inlet drift gillnet fishing area includes the waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude. In 2005, approximately 154,000 summer chum, 155,700 fall chum, and 22,000 coho salmon are expected to return to Nakat Inlet. Peak chum salmon catches from these releases are expected between mid-July to mid-August for summer chum and late August to early September for fall chum and coho salmon.

The fisheries in Nakat Inlet will be opened by ADF&G via emergency order in consultation with SSRAA. The Nakat Inlet fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.372 and the gillnet fisheries will open according to the following schedule (Table 3).

Table 3.–Nakat Inlet gillnet fishery openings schedule.

Month	Nakat Inlet Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
June	June 1 (Wednesday) noon	through June 2 (Thursday) noon
	June 4 (Saturday) noon	through June 5 (Sunday) noon
	June 7 (Tuesday) noon	through June 8 (Wednesday) noon
	June 10 (Friday) noon	through June 11 (Saturday) noon
	June 13 (Monday) noon	through June 14 (Tuesday) noon
	June 16 (Thursday) noon	through June 17 (Friday) noon
	June 19 (Sunday) noon	through June 20 (Monday) noon
	June 22 (Wednesday) noon	through June 23 (Thursday) noon
	June 25 (Saturday) noon	through June 26 (Sunday) noon
	June 28 (Tuesday) noon	through June 29 (Wednesday) noon

-continued-

Table 3.– Page 2 of 2

Month	Nakat Inlet Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
July	July 1 (Friday) noon	through July 2 (Saturday) noon
	July 4 (Monday) noon	through July 5 (Tuesday) noon
	July 7 (Thursday) noon	through July 8 (Friday) noon
	July 10 (Sunday) noon	through July 11 (Monday) noon
	July 13 (Wednesday) noon	through July 14 (Thursday) noon
	July 16 (Saturday) noon	through July 17 (Sunday) noon
	July 19 (Tuesday) noon	through July 20 (Wednesday) noon
	July 22 (Friday) noon	through July 23 (Saturday) noon
	July 25 (Monday) noon	through July 26 (Tuesday) noon
	July 28 (Thursday) noon	through July 29 (Friday) noon
	July 31 (Sunday) noon	through August 1 (Monday) noon
August	August 3 (Wednesday) noon	through August 4 (Thursday) noon
	August 6 (Saturday) noon	through August 7 (Sunday) noon
	August 9 (Tuesday) noon	through August 10 (Wednesday) noon
	August 12 (Friday) noon	through August 13 (Saturday) noon
	August 15 (Monday) noon	through August 16 (Tuesday) noon
	August 18 (Thursday) noon	through August 19 (Friday) noon
	August 21 (Sunday) noon	through August 22 (Monday) noon
	August 24 (Wednesday) noon	through August 25 (Thursday) noon
	August 27 (Saturday) noon	through August 28 (Sunday) noon
	August 30 (Tuesday) noon	through August 31 (Wednesday) noon
September	September 2 (Friday) noon	through September 3 (Saturday) noon
	September 5 (Monday) noon	through September 6 (Tuesday) noon
	September 8 (Thursday) noon	through September 9 (Friday) noon
	September 11 (Sunday) noon	through September 12 (Monday) noon
	September 14 (Wednesday) noon	through September 15 (Thursday) noon

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, September 17, 2005, the Nakat Inlet SHA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Nakat Inlet SHA will close for the season at 12:00 noon Thursday, November 10.

Terminal Area—Eastern Passage [5 AAC 33.373]

The Eastern Passage (Earl West Cove) drift gillnet fishing area includes the waters of Eastern Passage south of 56°24.83' N. latitude and west of 132°06.60' W. longitude. In 2005, very few chum or Chinook salmon are expected to the EWC THA. The SSRAA Board of Directors has not adopted a rotational fishery calendar as of April 14, 2005. SSRAA has forecast that there will

be no return to the EWC THA in 2005. This area will be open to trolling from June 15 until closed by emergency order.

Terminal Area—Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough [5 AAC 33.381]

In the Wrangell Narrows (District 6) terminal area, the preliminary projected Chinook salmon return is for 5,800 adults to the terminal area. Under provisions of the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan the commercial fishery will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. The 900 fish designated for commercial harvest in 2005 will be available for commercial troll catch in the terminal area. No terminal gillnet fishery will occur in 2005.

The total Crystal Lake Hatchery coho salmon return is expected to be 3,500; of that, an estimated 2,500 fish will be available for sport and commercial harvest in the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough area. No commercial gillnet fishery is expected on these fish in 2005.

Terminal Area—Anita Bay [5 AAC 33.383]

The Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Anita Bay west of a line from Anita Point to 56° 14.26' N. lat., 132° 23.92' W. long.

In 2005, approximately 125,000 chum, 6,000 Chinook and 20,000 coho salmon are expected to be returning in total. It is anticipated that approximately 74,000 chum, 1,000 Chinook and 2,000 coho will return to the terminal area and be available for harvesting in the rotational fisheries. The SSRAA Board of Directors adopted the following drift gillnet fishing schedule for Anita Bay THA in 2005:

May: May 1 beginning at 12:01 AM through June 1, 11:59 PM, open to all gear types at all times, unless closed by emergency order.

The remaining openings for theAnita Bay gillnet fishery follow in Table 4.

Table 4.–Anita Bay gillnet fishery openings schedule, June 4 through October 9.

Month	Anita Bay Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
June	June 4 (Saturday) noon	through June 6 (Monday) noon
	June 9 (Thursday) noon	through June 11 (Saturday) noon
	June 14 (Tuesday) noon	through June 16 (Thursday) noon
	June 19 (Sunday) noon	through June 21 (Tuesday) noon
	June 24 (Friday) noon	through June 26 (Sunday) noon
	June 29 (Wednesday) noon	through July 1 (Friday) noon
July	July 4 (Monday) noon	through July 6 (Wednesday) noon
	July 9 (Saturday) noon	through July 11 (Monday) noon
	July 14 (Thursday) noon	through July 16 (Saturday) noon
	July 19 (Tuesday) noon	through July 21 (Thursday) noon
	July 24 (Sunday) noon	through July 26 (Tuesday) noon
	July 29 (Friday) noon	through July 31 (Sunday) noon

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Table 4.–Page 2 of 2

Month	Anita Bay Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
August	August 3 (Wednesday) noon	through August 5 (Friday) noon
	August 8 (Monday) noon	through August 10 (Wednesday) noon
	August 13 (Saturday) noon	through August 15 (Monday) noon
	August 18 (Thursday) noon	through August 20 (Saturday) noon
	August 23 (Tuesday) noon	through August 25 (Thursday) noon
	August 28 (Sunday) noon	through August 30 (Tuesday) noon
September	September 2 (Friday) noon	through September 4 (Sunday) noon
	September 7 (Wednesday) noon	through September 9 (Friday) noon
	September 12 (Monday) noon	through September 14 (Wednesday) noon
	September 17 (Saturday) noon	through September 19 (Monday) noon
	September 22 (Thursday) noon	through September 24 (Saturday) noon
	September 27 (Tuesday) noon	through September 29 (Thursday) noon
October	October 2 (Sunday) noon	through October 4 (Tuesday) noon
	October 7 (Friday) noon	through October 9 (Sunday) noon

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, the Anita Bay THA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Anita Bay THA will close for the season at 12:00 noon Thursday, November 10, 2005

DOUGLAS ISLAND PINK AND CHUM INC. TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

Terminal Area–Boat Harbor

Projections for the Boat Harbor area return are approximately 277,000 fish in 2005, This is an increase from last seasons projection and 1.9 times the 1991–2004 average. No hatchery cost recovery fishery is planned for the Boat Harbor area so these fish will all be available for common property fishery harvest. The projection for the Amalga Harbor project is approximately 489,000 fish, 44% of the 1994–2004 average of 1,097,700 fish. The below average projected return to the Amalga Harbor release site is due mostly to poor rearing and release conditions at Amalga Harbor in the spring of 2002.

Special Harvest Area–Speel Arm

The forecast total return of Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon in 2005 is 265,000 fish. This is a significant decrease from last year's total return of approximately 507,000 fish. This return will be principally harvested in the traditional District 11 commercial gillnet fishery. Common property fishery openings are also expected to occur during August in the DIPAC Speel Arm SHA, which is located in waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03.42' N. latitude. Timing of openings in the SHA will depend on DIPACs progress toward brood stock and cost recovery goals and the sockeye salmon escapement to Speel Lake. DIPAC cost recovery efforts in the SHA during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm SHA will be made jointly by ADF&G and DIPAC.

FISHERY CONTACTS

The following people are Division of Commercial Fisheries contacts for this management plan:

Scott Kelley
Region 1 Supervisor
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4250

William Davidson
Region 1 Management Coordinator
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

Kevin Monagle or Dave Harris
Area Management Biologists
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4205

Phil Doherty, Bo Meredith, or Justin Breese
Area Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-5195

Dave Gordon
Area Management Biologist, Acting
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

William Bergmann or Troy Thynes
Area Management Biologists
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-3801

Randy Bachman
Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 766-2830

Scott Forbes
Assistant Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 200
Wrangell, AK 99929
(907) 874-3822

The following is a list of telephone numbers that may be called during the gillnet fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to gillnet fishing:

Ketchikan:	(907) 225-6870
Petersburg:	(907) 772-3700
Juneau:	(907) 465-8905
Haines:	(907) 766-2830